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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

INTRODUCTION

1. In my report of 16 August 1993 (S/26311) concerning the situation in Tajikistan, I informed the members of the Security Council about the activities of my Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Mr. Ismat Kittani, during the first three months of his mandate. I also proposed to extend for a further three months the mandates of my Special Envoy and a small team of United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan.

2. The President of the Security Council, in his statement made on behalf of the Council at its 3266th meeting on 23 August 1993 (S/26341), welcomed my proposals to extend the mandate of my Special Envoy until 31 October 1993 and to extend the tenure of United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan for a period of three months.

3. In my letter dated 10 September 1993 (S/26744), I further informed the members of the Security Council about the consultations which my Special Envoy for Tajikistan had in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan from 17 to 26 August 1993. As a result of his discussions with the Government of Tajikistan and leaders of the Tajik opposition residing in Afghanistan, as well as with the Governments of regional and other countries, my Special Envoy reported to me that a consensus seemed to be emerging on the need for a political settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan.

4. During the current session of the General Assembly, I have had the opportunity to discuss the problem of Tajikistan with many Heads of State and Foreign Ministers, including in particular Chairman Rakhmonov of Tajikistan and President Karimov of Uzbekistan. I have also exchanged correspondence on this subject with President Rabbani of Afghanistan. I stressed to all my interlocutors the need for dialogue without preconditions among all the Tajik parties to the conflict. In addition, my Special Envoy held discussions with many leaders of countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as well as representatives of other countries on the most effective means of establishing a comprehensive national dialogue.

5. I consider it to be a positive step that the Government of Tajikistan is prepared, inter alia, for dialogue with all the social forces in the country to achieve national reconciliation, civil harmony and stability. I also was

encouraged to see signs of a more flexible approach on the part of the Tajik opposition. I believe that further joint efforts are needed to overcome the remaining difficulties in establishing a negotiating process. In this regard, I am grateful to have received assurances from interested Governments of their continued support for my efforts and those of my Special Envoy.

6. During the reporting period, the small group of United Nations officials in Tajikistan continued to play a useful role, providing me with up-to-date information related to the conflict, coordinating international humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan and monitoring the human rights situation in the country.

I. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7. The current situation in Tajikistan, and especially on the Tajik-Afghan border, gives grounds for serious concern. Recent reports from United Nations officials in Tajikistan and from other sources indicate that the fighting continues to intensify. Cross-border infiltration by armed opposition groups from the territory of Afghanistan and fighting between them and government and CIS forces occur on a daily basis. In addition, the armed confrontation is intensifying inside the country, particularly in Khatlon and Gorno-Badakhshan regions. There remains a danger that this instability could spill into neighbouring countries.

8. Chairman Rakhmonov informed me, in his letter of 25 October 1993, that the situation along his country's border with Afghanistan has once again deteriorated. In this connection, he requested that I continue my efforts aimed at normalizing the situation. He also requested that the mandate of Ambassador Kittani be extended.

9. The humanitarian situation in Tajikistan continues to be a matter of deep concern. Because of the instability and fighting, economic life in many districts of Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan and Garm regions has come to a halt. As a result of a severe shortage of fuel, the transportation system is paralysed, many industrial enterprises are closed and crops in many parts of the country have not been harvested. The population is suffering from shortages of food, medical attention and shelter. Refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their places of origin are the most vulnerable group. The humanitarian assistance that is provided by the international community is not sufficient. The forthcoming winter may further aggravate the humanitarian situation.

10. I continue to receive alarming reports of violations of human rights in Tajikistan. Respect for international standards of human rights will be necessary if progress is to be made in national reconciliation.

11. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have informed me, by their letter dated 30 September 1993 (S/26610), of the decision of their Governments to establish CIS coalition peace-keeping forces on the territory of Tajikistan, with the purpose of stabilizing the situation in that country. I hope that the implementation of this decision can contribute to the achievement of early

agreement on political dialogue, cessation of hostilities and national reconciliation.

12. Some regional countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, have also indicated recently their interest in playing a more active role in efforts to restore peace to Tajikistan.

13. Since my last report to the Council, there have been encouraging developments in Tajik-Afghan bilateral relations, especially the three-day visit to Kabul by Chairman Rakhmonov, which concluded on 30 August 1993. Continued direct high-level contacts between the two neighbouring countries can contribute to a reduction of tension along their borders.

II. OBSERVATIONS

14. The current developments in Tajikistan and the neighbouring region give grounds both for hope for a political solution of the conflict and for serious concern at the risk of further deterioration of the situation. Concerted efforts are needed to overcome the remaining difficulties and to persuade the Government of Tajikistan and all major opposition groups to start a serious process of negotiation without further delay. I will be ready to respond positively to any reasonable request by the parties and to recommend to the Security Council an appropriate international monitoring mechanism to help to implement possible future agreements concluded by them.

15. In these circumstances, I have decided to extend the mandate of my Special Envoy, Ambassador Kittani, for a further five months, until 31 March 1994.

16. The Government of Tajikistan has requested me to establish a United Nations integrated office in Dushanbe to provide advice and assistance in developing the economic and social infrastructure of the country, as well as to coordinate the humanitarian efforts of the international community. The Government has also sought United Nations advisory services in the field of human rights and democratic institutions. The integrated office could also provide substantive and other support to the Special Envoy. Pending a decision by the General Assembly on the question of interim offices, preliminary and informal discussions have been opened with the Government for a possible agreement between the United Nations and Tajikistan on the establishment of the integrated office. Meanwhile, I propose that the small team of United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan, consisting of five international staff and seven locals, should continue to perform their functions until the integrated office is established.